

Atty Docket No.: 4167-00100
(formerly 4113-00100)

Patent

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) In a restaurant of the type in which a plurality of food items are displayed in individual food display containers, customers assemble meals by removing portions of food items from the display containers, and the removed portions are cooked together, A a method for assembling and serving food a meal, comprising:
 - selecting a plurality of ~~sets~~ menu items, each menu item comprising a plurality of food items;
 - assigning a unique identifier to each ~~set of food~~ menu items item;
 - displaying each of the food items in an individual food item display container;
 - and
 - providing a label associated with each food item display container, each label comprising all unique identifiers associated with each ~~set~~ menu item in which the food item is included.
2. (Currently amended) A method ~~of serving food~~ for assembling a meal according to Claim 1, wherein each ~~set~~ menu item comprises food items which are compatible with each other.
3. (Currently amended) A method ~~of serving food~~ for assembling a meal according to Claim 1, further comprising providing a display menu comprising each of the unique identifiers.

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4. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 3, further comprising providing on the display menu the names of each food item in each set of food items in association with the unique identifier associated with each set menu item.
5. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 3, further comprising providing on the display menu an arbitrary name for each set of food items menu item in association with the unique identifier associated with each set menu item.
6. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 3, wherein the display menu comprises a menu board.
7. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 3, wherein the display menu comprises a plurality of tags each comprising one of the unique identifiers.
8. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, further comprising attaching each label to a sneeze guard located proximate the food display containers.
9. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, further comprising attaching each label to a food display container.

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10. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, further comprising removing portions of food items from each individual food item display container having an associated label comprising one of said unique identifiers.
11. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 10, further comprising placing the portions of food items removed from each of the individual containers having an associated label comprising one of said unique identifiers in a collection container.
12. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal according to Claim 11, further comprising cooking all the food items contained in the collection container together.
13. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal according to Claim 12, further comprising placing the cooked food items in a serving container.
14. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal according to Claim 13, further comprising serving the cooked food items in the serving container as a meal.
15. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 11, further comprising providing representations of the unique identifiers for the collection containers.

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16. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 15, wherein the representations are releaseably attachable to the collection containers.
17. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 16, wherein the representations comprise an adhesive for releasable attachment to a collection container.
18. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 16, wherein the representations comprise a spring-loaded clamp for releasable attachment to a collection container.
19. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 15, wherein the representations are permanently attached to the collection containers.
20. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, wherein each unique identifier is a color.
21. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, wherein each unique identifier comprises a-alphanumeric characters.

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22. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, wherein each unique identifier comprises a Braille symbol.
23. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 1, wherein each unique identifier comprises an iconographic symbol.
24. (Currently amended) In a restaurant of the type in which a plurality of food items are ~~displayed~~ provided in individual food display containers, ~~and customers assemble meals~~ are assembled by selecting portions of food items from the display containers, and the selected portions are cooked together, ~~the improvement~~ a method for assembling a meal comprising:
preselecting a plurality of ~~sets of food~~ menu items, each menu item comprising a plurality of food items;
assigning a unique identifier to each ~~set of food items~~ menu item; and
providing a label associated with each food item display container, each label comprising all unique identifiers associated with each ~~set~~ menu item in which the food item is included.
25. (Currently amended) The method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 24, further comprising providing a ~~display~~ menu comprising each of the unique identifiers.

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26. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 24, further comprising attaching each label to a sneeze guard located proximate the food display containers.
27. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 24, further comprising attaching each label to a food display container.
28. (Currently amended) ~~In a~~ A method for assembling a meal of serving food according to Claim 24 ~~wherein customers place selected portions of food items in a collection container, the further improvement of further comprising~~ providing representations of the unique identifiers for the collection containers; and placing selected portions of food items in a collection container.
29. (Currently amended) In a restaurant of the type in which a plurality of food items are displayed in individual food display containers, customers assemble meals by selecting portions of food items from the display containers, and the selected portions are cooked together, a A system for serving food assembling a meal, comprising:
- a plurality of menu items, each menu item comprising a plurality sets of food items;
 - a unique identifier associated with each ~~set of food items~~ menu item;

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a plurality of display containers, each containing one of said food items; and associated with each display container, a representation of all unique identifiers associated with each ~~set~~ menu item in which the food item in the display container is included.

30. (Currently amended) A system for ~~serving food~~ assembling a meal according to Claim 29, wherein each ~~set of food~~ menu item items comprises food items which are compatible with each other.
31. (Currently amended) A system for assembling a meal ~~serving food~~ according to Claim 29, further comprising a display menu containing representations of the unique identifiers.
32. (Currently amended) A system for assembling a meal ~~serving food~~ according to Claim 31, wherein the display menu comprises a list of the names of each food item included in each ~~set~~ menu item associated with the unique identifier associated with the ~~set~~ menu item.
33. (Currently amended) A system for assembling a meal ~~serving food~~ according to Claim 29, further comprising a collection container having a representation of one of the unique identifiers.

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34. (Currently amended) A system for assembling a meal serving food according to Claim 33, wherein the representation is releasably attached to the collection container.